

**Assembly Bill No. 1591**

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Passed the Assembly August 21, 2006

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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Passed the Senate August 14, 2006

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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This bill was received by the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Private Secretary of the Governor*

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

An act to amend Section 14132.41 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1591, Chan. Medi-Cal: nurse practitioners.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Services, pursuant to which medical benefits are provided to public assistance recipients and certain other low-income persons. Existing law provides that services provided by a certified nurse practitioner are covered under the Medi-Cal program to the extent mandated by federal law, and requires the department to permit a certified family nurse practitioner or a certified pediatric nurse practitioner to bill Medi-Cal independently for his or her services.

This bill would provide, instead, that these services are covered to the extent authorized by federal law, and would require that the department permit any certified nurse practitioner to bill for these services.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 14132.41 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

14132.41. (a) Services provided by a certified nurse practitioner shall be covered under this chapter to the extent authorized by federal law, and subject to utilization controls. The department shall permit a certified nurse practitioner to bill Medi-Cal independently for his or her services. If a certified nurse practitioner chooses to bill Medi-Cal independently for his or her services, the department shall make payment directly to the certified nurse practitioner.

(b) For purposes of this section, "certified" means nationally board certified in a recognized specialty.



Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2006

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*Governor*